

after a search in the Archives. But the specimens are annotated in von Mueller's hand as

Potoromyces loculatus, near the entrance of the Gordon River. West. Aust. 1881 Th. Muir.

It is the Gardner River that has its entrance from the sea between Pt. Entrecasteaux and Pt. Nuyts, but it is likely that the specimen did come from the inland Gordon River, which is near to the areas where Thomas Muir collected and farmed.

So we now know that von Mueller was NOT "wrong in this" and his allusion is entirely a happy one. It is rather sad that the rules of botanical nomenclature prevent his name being valid and the current name of the Potoroo Truffle is *Mesophellia glauca* (Cooke & Massee) Reid as published by Dr. D. A. Reid in the *Kew Bulletin*, volume 17, page 306, 1963.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

A spider feeding on a jewel beetle.—On October 21, 1979, in the company of Mr. S. Wilson, the author was observing insects feeding on *Chamelaucium uncinatum*, some 20 km N of Gingin (31°04'S, 115°47'E). We noticed a moderately sized brown spider feeding on a jewel beetle, *Stigmodera (Castiarina) picta* Laporte and Gory, which it had wrapped in silk. The spider was busily feeding on the tissues between the thorax and abdomen. The spider was collected and later identified by Dr. B. Y. Main as an immature female of an *Araneus* species (Araneidae), possibly *A. heroine*. Little is known about the predators of jewel beetles (Buprestidae). Barker and Inns (*West. Aust. Nat.*, 13, 1976: 147-148) have recorded an asilid fly as a predator of a large jewel beetle in Western Australia. Although it could be assumed that spiders feed on buprestids, there have been no previously published reports verifying this assumption.

—T. J. HAWKESWOOD, Subiaco.

Musk Lorikeets at Troy Park, Swan River—On April 1, 1979, at Troy Park in Alfred Cove I heard an unfamiliar parrot call and looked around for its source in the eucalypts bordering the road. I soon found a group of 8 Twenty-eight Parrots (*Barnardius zonarius*) c. 8 metres from the ground and below them at c. 3 metres two greenish lorikeets with red foreheads, lores and stripe from behind the eye to side of neck.

The latter birds were quite clearly not Purple-crowned Lorikeets (*Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*) with which I am familiar but appeared to be Musk Lorikeets (*Glossopsitta concinna*).

After I had watched them for about 5 minutes they flew down to and entered a hollowed-out branch in the eucalypt, the hollow being c. 10 cm in diameter.

I again saw them entering and leaving the hollow on April 7 and heard in the hollow what sounded like them on April 8th.

B. Corfe (*West. Aust. Nat.*, 13; 1977: 209) found Musk Lorikeets breeding at Alfred Cove in a Flooded Gum (*Eucalyptus rudis*) in late 1975, so I presume that these are the same birds or direct descendants of them.

—PHILIP GRIFFIN, Western Australian Museum.

Record of the arachnid order Schizomida in Western Australia.—The small, moisture-loving order of arachnids, Schizomida or "micro-whip scorpions" have a scattered distribution in South and Central America, Africa and oriental regions. Occurrence of the group in Australia has long been known but the specimens collected have not to date been described (Main, 1979). Dr. T. E. Woodward collected specimens in rainforest near Brisbane many years ago (pers. comm. 1965). Dr. J. A. L. Watson more recently has collected specimens in the vicinity of Darwin (pers. comm.).

This note is to put on record the collection of a single specimen of the order from Spiral Cave on North West Cape. The specimen was collected by P. Cawthorn in 1962 who, at the same time, collected a troglobitic clubionid spider. Subterranean fauna of caves and wells of this region have already been documented by Holthuis (1960), Mees (1962), and Cawthorn (1963).

The occurrence of a schizomid in this region is of special zoogeographic significance. Presumably it entered Australia from the north some time in the early Tertiary when it would have been much more widespread during a wetter more favourable climate. The group is apparently still common in rainforest litter in the Northern Territory. The W.A. occurrence represents a relic population. However the group could be expected to persist in favourable habitats in the Kimberleys and it is suggested that entomologists favoured with the opportunity to visit this region, might profitably search for specimens when collecting in moist litter and humus. In the meantime, Dr. I. D. Naumann and Dr. J. A. L. Watson (C.S.I.R.O. Division of Entomology) plan to describe the available specimens.

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The Red-necked Phalarope—new migrant for the south-west of Western Australia.—The Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*) is a pelagic species breeding chiefly in sub-arctic regions and wintering in tropical seas off the coast of Peru, the south-west Pacific and the seas off Arabia, Wynne Edwards (1966), White (1975) and Schodde *et al.* (1975) suggest that some birds may winter in the seas to the north-west of Australia.

The species was not recorded in Australia until 1962 and since then only a small number of sightings have been made in Victoria and South Australia (see Cox, 1973; McNamara, 1976, for references). There have been no published sightings from Western Australia.

Our sighting was of two birds in winter plumage on the north-west corner of Government House Lake on Rottne Island. The birds were first sighted on 4 February, 1980 when they were feeding with about 200 Banded Stilts (*Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*). They were present each day in the same area until 8 February 1980, when they were not observed and searches of the adjacent lakes were unsuccessful. Sightings were from early morning to late afternoon; on all occasions they were feeding on the water with their characteristic circling movements.

Our identification was confirmed by Dr. John Raines, a member of the Rarities Committee of British birds, who also took a number of photographs.

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- COX, J. B. 1973. A further occurrence of the Red-necked Phalarope in South Australia. *S. Aust. Orn.*, 26: 116-117.
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